

Remarks

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action dated July 1, 2004, in which the Examiner objected to claim 6, entered a double patenting rejection over U.S. Patent 5,498,227, and rejected claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-13 over various references. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the reasons set out below.

Objection to Claim 6

Applicant has amended claim 6 to cure the grounds for rejection by replacing "inner core" and "buffer layer" with "implantable wire."

Double Patenting Rejection

A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith, which disclaims any portion of the term of a patent issuing on the present application beyond the term of U.S. patent 5,498,227. Applicant submits that this cures the grounds for the double patenting rejection.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been canceled.

Claims 3 and 6 have been placed in independent form and are therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 4 and 7-13 have been amended to depend from those three claims, thereby placing those claims in condition for allowance too.

Conclusion

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the foregoing arguments and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding the foregoing, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (713) 238-8043.

Respectfully submitted,



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